

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract by rewriting same to read as follows.

a'
An audio signal processing apparatus and method using pitch information to change a length of predictive residual signals while maintaining continuity and thereby enabling conversion of a reproduction speed without changing a pitch and enabling a conversion of speed with a minimum of calculation, includes shortening or extending residual signals on a time axis while maintaining pitch information, cutting out signals and connecting different pitch sections in the respective frames based on a mutual resemblance of signals at the time of shortening, and extending predictive residual signals in respective frames by extrapolation at the time of extension. An audio signal that has been compressed or expanded on the time axis can be reproduced without changing the pitch by synthesizing an audio signal by a linear predication code synthesis filter based on the generated new predictive residual signals.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-17 by rewriting same to read as follows.

a²
--1. (Amended) An ~~audio~~ audio signal processing apparatus for reproducing an audio signal by decoding encoded predictive residual